



Washington State Department of Agriculture News Release

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Former Woodland Park Zoo veterinarian to join WSDA

OLYMPIA – A veterinarian with 25 years of experience in zoo and wild animal medicine has been hired as the new assistant state veterinarian for the Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA).

Dr. Janis Joslin will join the WSDA's Animal Health Program on Feb. 1. She has spent the past 16 years in a variety of positions, including the director of Animal Health and Research, at the Woodland Park Zoo in Seattle.

"We are very pleased to have someone with Dr. Joslin's background and experience joining our agency," said Valoria Loveland, WSDA director. "She has worked with a wide variety of animal species, including domestic livestock. Her research and diagnostic skills will be important assets as we tackle the challenges of bioterrorism preparedness and heightened public concern regarding animal health issues."

She will be the assistant to Dr. Leonard Eldridge, the state veterinarian. Eldridge came to WSDA in October, 2004 with almost 40 years of experience in large animal veterinary medicine. They will oversee a staff of four field veterinarians, a veterinarian technician and administrative staff.

"I'm looking forward to working with Dr. Joslin," Eldridge said. "I think our diversity of skills, knowledge and abilities will enable us to provide a much higher level of service to the public and the industry."

The Animal Health Program is responsible for preventing the spread of infectious animal diseases in the state. The two state veterinarians also will oversee the development and implementation of emergency plans for foreign animal diseases and the care, sheltering and treatment of animals involved with natural disasters.

Before the Woodland Park Zoo, Joslin was the veterinarian in charge at the Chicago Zoological Park. She is internationally known for her expertise in primate medicine and zoo animal medicine programs. She received her degree in veterinary medicine from the College of Veterinary Medicine at The Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio. She also has a bachelor's degree in biology from Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill.

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